THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (c). Cooperative Societies with objects not confined to one State and serving the interests of members in more than one State come under the purview of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 (A Central Act). The proposals for setting up of such Multi-State Cooperative Societies may be considered for registration in view of the provisions of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 1984 and rules framed thereunder. Hence, the question of encouragement or otherwise of the setting up of Multi-State Cooperative Societies, does not arise.

[Translation]

Gauge Conversion in Madhya Pradesh

3092. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places in Madhya Pradesh where metre gauge railway lines are existing;

(b) whether the Union Government propose to convert these metre gauge railway lines into broad gauge;

(c) if so, the names of the railway lines out of these for which the action is being taken for gauge conversion;

(d) whether there is any proposal to covert the metre gauge rail lines from Gwalior to Shyopur-Kala and Bhind to Gwalior into broad gauge; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Metre gauge lines are existing at the following places in Madhya Pradesh :

1. Nimach
2. Ratlam
3. Ujjain
4. Indore
5. Mhow and
6. Khandwa

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Gauge conversion of Nimach-Ratlam sections is an approved work, which is currently in progress and is likely to be completed in the Ninth Plan.

Surveys for conversion of Ratlam-Indore-Ujjain-Mhow and Mhow-Khandwa are in progress. Futher consideration of the proposals will be possible, once the results of the surveys become available.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey for conversion of Gwalior-Sheopur Kalan narrow gauge section to broad gauge and its extension to Kota is in progress. Further consideration of the proposal will be possible, once the results of the survey become available.

Gwalior to Nonera is already an existing broad gauge line. Conversion of the line from Nonera to Bhind from narrow gauge to broad gauge, which forms a part of the approved work of Guna-Etawah new broad gauge line, will be taken up after completion of the construction of Guna-Gwalior new line.

[English]

Jabalpur Railway Station

3093. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the pitiable condition of Jabalpur Railway Station viz. corruption in reservation fake reservation, no sitting arrangement in the reservation premises, defunct PCO boxes at the railway platform and dirty railway tracks, etc; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). Jabalpur station has been provided with Computerised reservation facility which precludes the scope of fraud like selling of fake or counterfeit tickets. Some unscrupulous elements with connivance of railway staff, however, indulge in malpractices like blocking of berths, cornering of accommodation etc. Two such cases have been reported recently in which railway administration has initiated action. Preventive, surprise and decoy checks by Commercial and Vigilance organisations are conducted on a regular and sustained basis in order to tackle such problems.

No arrangement is presently available in the reservation complex at Jabalpur station for seating of passengers seeking reservations. Railways are exploring the feasibility of providing sitting arrangement, if required.

Two manned telephone booths with STD/ISD facilities are provided on main platforms of Jabalpur station. These booths are maintained by P and T Department and action is taken to ensure that they are kept in working order.

For ensuring cleanliness of railway track adjacent to platforms, washable apron has been provided on Platform No. 1 and provision for washable apron for Platform No. 3 is being processed by the railway.

[Translation]

Bhopal Gas Tragedy

3094. Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have incurred any expenditure on the treatment and other items relating to the Bhopal gas victims till now; and